



**Green Initiatives Team**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 5, 2014**

**6pm**

In attendance: Alderman Kelly Russell, Pam Reppert, Phil LeBlanc, Peter Brehm, Sylvia Carignan, Emily Hansroth, Graham Hubbard, Grant Young

1. GIT Team seeking new members. Resumes were turned into the Mayor for his review. Selections are expected in the coming weeks.
2. On-going Projects
  - a. STAR Communities-Jenny reported on the Impact of Sustainability on Municipal Bonds Webinar that had conflicting information about how helpful sustainability is on bond ratings. In addition, STAR has denied staff requests to delay the end-of-year deadline for reporting data. The program requires Leadership Communities to be certified within a year of signing on. Jenny reported that she is likely unable to gather all the data needed to comply.
  - b. Staff are meeting with UMD PALS professors to discuss courses that might provide valuable projects to the City. Staff are scheduled to meet with professors May 6 and 8. Courses will be chosen by Zack Kershner, Director of Public Works.
  - c. Maryland Smart Energy Communities will be providing a grant of approximately \$150,000, the exact amount is undetermined. The grant is for assisting with energy efficiency and fuel efficiency projects. Jenny is gathering the necessary data to set baselines.
  - d. Staff have applied for a Pet Poop Bag Grant through Doody Free Water Project, focusing on the 14 pet waste stations nearest waterways. The City goes through about 12,000 bags per month and the Baker Park and Carroll Creek stations are resupplied and dumped daily.
  - e. Pam provided details on the tree planting in Waterford Park along the abandoned sewer easement, which will be approximately .49 acres, to offset the Shared Use Path building. There also will be fee-in-lieu plantings in another section of Waterford Park.

3. Pam brought to the attention of the GIT the fact that the Downtown Partnership is looking at the downtown street tree locations within the sidewalks to relieve pedestrian congestion at the narrower sidewalk areas. Pam asks for GIT to brainstorm on how to protect the downtown street trees from pet waste and pedestrian damage.
4. As of 2010, the City had approximately 14 percent tree canopy, but needs approximately 3,700 more acres of trees to meet its goal of 40 percent. Jenny wanted to explore ways to encourage homeowners to plant more trees because that goal cannot be met by planting on City property alone. Peter mentioned the Green Neighbor Forum and how it reaches out to residents throughout the City and County about many topics. Jenny also mentioned the County's Neighborhood Green Program, which specifically teaches homeowners where to plant, what species to plant, and how to maintain urban and suburban forests.
5. The City is working with the County to protect brook trout streams in Tuscarora watershed. Riparian buffers have been planted in some sections and there are plans to plant more. Jenny is partnering with Drew Farrier at Hood College for a pilot study on floating plant islands in stormwater ponds to reduce nutrients, sediment, and increase macroinvertebrate habitat. Jenny mentioned that she needed to reach out to homeowner associations for both plantings and stormwater ponds.
6. New Project
  - a. Jenny asked the GIT team if they would be interested in partnering with the County's Sustainability Commission to work on EV projects. The Sustainability Commission will be focusing on these projects in the coming year. The Commission has to approve the partnership and project, but Shannon Moore, Sustainability Manager for Frederick County, has asked the GIT Team to attend their next meeting on Wednesday, May 21 from 3-5 pm. GIT Team members were interested in the partnership. Jenny will attend the County meeting and welcomed any other GIT team members or interested individuals to join.